

Board of Education Meeting

Liberty School Board Room
February 27, 2024, at 6:30 PM



MINUTES

Mission

We, the Saline Area Schools, will equip all students with the knowledge, technological proficiency, and personal skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly complex society. We expect that our students, staff, and the Saline Community will share in these responsibilities.

OPENING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education meeting of February 27, 2024 was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Michael McVey

Board Members Present: Tim Austin, Susan Estep, Brad Gerbe, Lauren Gold, Michael McVey, Jennifer Steben

Board Members Absent: Jenny Miller

Central Administration Present: Superintendent Laatsch, Assistant Superintendent Owsley, Interim Assistant Superintendent Diglio, Executive Directors Clary, Davis and Martin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge, members of the SHS Drama Club presented “Be My Guest” and invited everyone to their upcoming performance of Beauty and the Beast March 15-17 at the Ellen Ewing Auditorium at SHS.

3. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOGNITION

- *SHS Volleyball Team*
- *SHS Today / Hornet Nation*

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

Cory Belote - Saline Lacrosse Club President

5. **RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

AGENDA

6. **REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to approve the agenda as revised (see below).**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

Revisions:

Remove item #7 Student Showcase

Change Jenny Miller's name to Michael McVey under Policy update (due to absence)

Table Action 8A. Possible consideration to have an adhoc committee review for consideration

7. **STUDENT SHOWCASE - CANCELLED**

Washtenaw United Hockey

Presenters: Julianna Marini, Sydney Clark, Abby Schroeder, Kendra Wagner, Nora Stevenson, Lilly Schlack, Kaysi Hobner, Addison Lyon, Chloe Dillen, Isabella Mack, and Sam Wawzysko. Advisors: Adam Winters, Chad Clark

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **RECOMMENDED MOTION** ... move to accept the Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness & Suicide Prevention Foundation gift of 2 benches, total value of \$2000 as recommended by President Michael McVey

Motion tabled. Consideration to have an adhoc committee review and recommend next steps.

B. **MOTION** made by Treasurer Gerbe, support Trustee Austin **to adopt the Proposed 2023-24 General Fund Budget Amendment as submitted by Assistant Superintendent Owsley.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- C. **MOTION** made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Gold **to accept the Bargaining Teams for the SEA 2024 Collective Bargaining Negotiations as recommended and submitted by Carol Diglio, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.**

The team will consist of:

Carol Baaki Diglio, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource
Miranda Owsley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Kara Davis, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Rex Clary, Executive Director of Operations
Emily Sickler, Harvest Principal
Theresa Stager, High School Principal

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

9. **SCHEDULED REPORTS**

A. **Athletic Department Update**

Presenters: Ashley Mantha & Jeff Pike

A presentation was made to the Board which provided an inside view of the operations of the Athletic Department and organization. Specific detail was shared about which sports take place throughout the year at both the MS and HS level. There are both district subsidized and self funded sports. No sport is fully funded by the general fund. All teams fundraise to support their teams to some level. There are also sports that are under Community Education. The SAS Athletic Expenditures from the general fund are about \$1,460,000 per year. Of that, \$1.1M is allocated to salaries. The remaining goes towards officials, gameworkers, security/police, transportation, entry fees, and repairs. We collaborate Facilities and Community Ed regarding equipment, maintenance and upkeep. Individual teams maintain student activity accounts (fundraising dollars) for other items such as uniforms, accommodations when traveling, etc.) The recent bond does not go into general operating dollars and can only support allocated facility changes. Pay to participate fees generate about \$270,000 per year. No one is ever turned away for hardship. There is also revenue from gate entrance fees. There are stringent training requirements for all coaches and new coaches benefit from a seasoned mentor coach. The student athlete also is held to high standards and those expectations were also reviewed. The average GPA for a student athlete is 3.45 (weighted) and 3.50 (weighted). In the 22/23 year we had 1,184 HS Roster spots, and 530 MS Roster spots. Saline HS is a MHSAA Class A participating in Division 1. But each MHSAA sport does have a different amount of divisions, so certain sports can fall into different divisions.

10. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **School of Choice**

Superintendent Laatsch

Reviewed the proposed guidelines for the 24/25 SOC guidelines. Mostly focusing on Y5/K openings (25), grades 1-3 (1), no openings grades 4-8, and small amount of openings (5) in 9th grade. This will move to an action item at the next Board meeting on March 12th.

B. Policy Committee Update

Jennifer Miller (Absent), Chair Michael McVey

In Jenny's absence, Michael McVey provides Committee Update.

2/21/24 Policy Meeting Review: Neola updates to PERA policies.

Changes were discussed to the 5 policies to be in alignment with current law to Public Education Relations Act. Policy 0122 Board Powers 0122 relates to topics no longer prohibited subjects, deleted from this bylaw with changes taking place on 2/13/24. Policy 1420 School Administrator Evaluation - statute goes into effect 7/1/24, changes the evaluation scales for educators. Policy 3131 Staff Reductions/Recalls which are no longer a prohibited subjects of bargaining as well as legislature amended section 1248 of the RSC relating to what can be used as decision-making factors in staffing situations. Policy 3142 Probationary Teachers - new laws changing the rating system. Policy 3220 Professional Staff Evaluations - Senate Bill 395 and 396 signed into law dramatically changing the evaluation system. These PERA Neola updates are presented under the consent agenda for approval this evening.

2/27/24 Policy Meeting Review: Continuing to review Neola updates.

Policy 8400 (Safety) primarily indicating the district designee as the "Executive Director of Operations" and reviewing revisions that reflect the changes required by amendments, approved by the Governor, to the Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) and should be adopted to remain compliant with Michigan law. Policy 5512 (Use of Tobacco by Students) primarily changes to language to be compatible with the MDHHS Tobacco Section Mission, Vision and Plan Initiative. Both will be on the 3/12 agenda for approval through the consent agenda.

Also discussed a requested revision to Policy 5113 School of Choice - align language with state law discussed new Policy 8300 Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan, which provides the district with the capability of conducting its essential operations under all threats and conditions with or without warning. These 2 policies will be on the 3/12 agenda as "Discussion Items"

Next Policy Meeting is Tuesday, March 5th. Additional Neola updates will be reviewed and may appear on the agenda for the March 12th Board of Education meeting.

11. ADMINISTRATION / BOARD UPDATES

Superintendent Laatsch - Acknowledgement of inclusion week. Lots of great activities going on throughout the district. Polar Plunge is February 28th. Will be attending the FFA Awards ceremony at the Wharton Center in East Lansing to honor senior Adyson Naebeck as a Top 3 Finalist for the title of

FFA Star Farmer of Michigan. Encourage the community to attend the upcoming FSAS Fundraiser on Saturday, March 9th at the Sheraton in Ann Arbor as well as Beauty and the Beast the weekend of March 15-17th.

Student Representative Clark & Iadipaolo: Caroline talked about the cancellation of the Student Showcase. Washtenaw United Hockey Team feels unsupported with the varsity “letter” process so they hope to present at another time when they are able to participate in the letter process. Mateo shared that the hockey team won another SEC title. Also the recent Unified Student/Staff basketball team at the HS was a lot of fun. Excited for the upcoming Polar Plunge taking place on February 28th to support Special Olympics.

Trustee Austin: Attended the recent gathering of Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Saline High School. Donovan Edwards was the guest speaker (former UM Football player). Well attended by parents and students. Very uplifting.

Treasurer Gerbe: February 28th there will be a potty training workshop at Liberty held through the SAS Special Education Advisory Committee. This special workshop will be held in the Liberty Board Room from 9:30 -11 am.

Vice President Steben: Encourage attendance to the FSAS Blue Jeans & Bling fundraiser on March 9th. Tickets are still available. Good luck to students taking exams as Trimester 2 comes to an end. Grateful for all the choices that are available for our HS students. March is “Reading Month”. Acknowledgement to Joe Welton for his years of service here in Saline.

Trustee Estep: This evening was the SEAB meeting. Update to the board will be coming soon. DEI AC will be meeting February 28th. In communicating with my children’s teachers, I was grateful to hear all about the Black History Month activities that are going on in classrooms. Want to also bring awareness regarding the transgender student from Oklahoma who recently passed away in conjunction with bullying attacks that occurred in their life. Reminder that we do have policies here in SAS to protect our students from this type of behavior.

Trustee Gold: Thank you to our tax payers and government officials for the recent increase in per pupil allowance. Thank you to our government teachers who encourage our students to be good citizens. Thank you to the district teams in how you handle crisis situations and how professionally communication is handled both from a parent and board member perspective.

President McVey: Will be a judge at an upcoming SEMMLAA Spelling Bee event. Will also be participating in the “Shark Tank” event being hosted by Sarah Stukey’s class at the HS, in addition to plunging at the February 28th Polar Plunge supporting Special Olympics. SHS raised the largest amount of money by any high school in Michigan.

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Estep **to authorize the Consent Agenda as printed.**

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

- A. **Approval** of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2024
- B. **Approval** of the Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2024
- C. **Approval** of the Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024
- D. **Approval of Payment** of the General Fund Accounts Payable of February 27, 2024, in the amount of \$2,878,542.97
- E. **Approval of Payment** of Bond Fund Series III Accounts Payable of February 27, 2024, in the amount of \$19,559.72
- F. **Approval of Payment** of 2023 Bond Fund Series I Accounts Payable of February 27, 2024, in the amount of \$188,045.48
- G. **Receive and File** Human Resources Reports
- H. **Reaffirm** the Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan (required every 6 months til 9/2024)
- I. **Approval** of Neola Updates to the following PERA Policies
 - Policy 0122 Board Powers
 - Policy 1420 School Administrator Evaluation
 - Policy 3131 Staff Reductions/Recalls
 - Policy 3142 Probationary Teachers
 - Policy 3220 Professional Staff Evaluation

CLOSING

13. ITEMS SCHEDULED ON NEXT AGENDA

DEIAC Report
Community Ed Report
1st Qtr Superintendent Evaluation (Closed Session)

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

STUDENTS - None

OTHER PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

15. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on March 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

16. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION made by Vice President Steben, support Trustee Austin to enter Closed Session of the Board of Education at 8:40 PM, with the intent to re-enter Open Session at 9 PM, for the purpose of Collective Bargaining 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Under Section 8(c) a simple majority vote is sufficient to enter into a closed session.

Ayes - All Present - **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

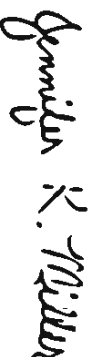
17. RE-ENTER OPEN SESSION

Without objection re-enter Open Session of the Board of Education Meeting at 9:32 PM.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection to adjourn the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 27, 2024, at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Miller
Board Secretary

Recorded by: Betty Jabnke